

U.S. COURTEXPENSES

Mr. Swanson on Proposed Abolition of the Fee System.

FORTIFICATIONS IN VIRGINIA.

A Chain of Forts and Other Defenses on the Coast—Bill to This Effect Introduced by Mr. Tyler.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 21.—(Special)—The House had under discussion to-day the urgency deficiency bill, providing for the expenses of United States courts. The committee, on recommending the bill, urged the House to pass a bill abolishing the present fee system. This precipitated a debate, commenced by the chairman of the committee, Mr. Cannon, and participated in by many others.

Mr. Swanson, of Virginia, spoke earnestly and forcibly in behalf of the recommendation to abolish the fee system, and paying such United States officer, including United States attorneys, marshals, deputy marshals, commissioners, and clerks, stated and fixed salaries, instead of fees. He showed how this great reform would be better for the officers, better for the government, and better for the people, and explained that the government paid these United States officials last year largely over \$5,000,000.

Mr. Swanson said that 25,919 criminal suits were adjusted last year, of which 16,221 were dismissed, discontinued, or the accused were acquitted; that this shows that over 40 per cent. of the indictments prosecuted in courts were for petty and frivolous offenses, or were brought on flimsy evidence, and should never have been instituted. He continued that this did not include the suits dismissed before the commissioners, nor those which the jury refused to indict; that if these were included it would show that over half the prosecutions and expenses thereof were useless and frivolous.

Mr. Swanson said that if these useless proceedings were stopped it would save the government \$2,000,000 a year. He presented figures showing that the money now recovered for the various expenditure last year was \$2,000,000 for fines and penalties, and \$7,674,61 in compromises.

He pictured the great expense, worry, and annoyance to which the people were subjected in defending cases and unjust suits which the records of the government itself show should never have been brought. He discussed the bill recently introduced by himself to abolish this fee system, and demonstrated how it would improve the service, be more satisfactory to the officers, and economical to the government, and remove the evils so well complained of, and which were brought to light by this discussion.

Mr. Swanson was attentively listened to, and his speech was making an excellent impression when he had to close, because of the fifteen-minute limit.

VIRGINIA FORTIFICATIONS.

Congressman D. Gardner Tyler, of the Second Virginia District, introduced two important bills to-day. The first, in view of the recent threatening condition, is of the greatest importance to Virginia and to the country at large. It provides for a thorough and substantial range of fortifications for capes Henry and Charles, and for a complete system of torpedoes to be used in connection with the forts. The bill appropriates \$1,000,000 for these purposes, and there is hardly a doubt of its passage.

Mr. Tyler also introduced a bill for a purpose that has hitherto been overlooked—that is, to allow all Mexican veterans who afterwards served in the Confederate army the privilege of becoming inmates of the national soldiers' homes. This is the first time such a bill as this has been offered, and it struck a great many people that it was strange it had not been done long ago. All who have heard of it seem to think that it will readily pass. There are said to be quite a number of Mexican veterans who would be benefited by it.

STILL NO SEEDS.

Virginia and North Carolina representatives in Congress are still in receipt of large numbers of postal-cards and letters from farmers, asking for seeds, but as it has been previously stated in this correspondence, there are none said to be sent them; no seeds in the Agricultural Department, and no seeds to be gotten anywhere here for farmers or anybody else.

Recently a joint meeting of the committees on Agriculture of the Senate and House was held, which was addressed by Secretary Morton on this subject, and it was then explained why the seed supply had failed short. Secretary Morton stated that under the statute he had advertised for seeds, giving the conditions and provisions under which bids should be made in compliance with the law. He received a large number of bids from seedsmen and agriculturists in every part of the country, but as none of them had conformed to the terms and limits prescribed by the law, he had to reject all of them, and consequently the department is minus a seed supply, or any seeds at all.

Congressman McKenney found in his mail this morning a large number of applications, and no less than three were from one immediate neighborhood. He had to answer all of them to the effect that he could get no seeds.

UNFAIRNESS TO MCKENNEY.

One of the members of Elections Committee No. 3, Mr. Bell, of Texas, is absent, having gone home on account of illness in his family. As Mr. Bell is a Democrat, and there are only three of that party on the big committee, Mr. Bell's absence may be keenly felt by Democrats whose seats are contested by Republicans. In this connection I am informed to-day that Colonel James T. Brady, of counsel for the (Republican) against McKenney from the (Democrat) from the Second Virginia District, has given notice that he will not attend the committee on Thursday and ask that the day be fixed on which to begin the hearing of that case. It would be manifestly unfair to Mr. McKenney to begin the hearing of this case in the absence of Mr. Bell, of Texas, and no doubt the Virginia members of the committee—Messrs. Jones and Walker—will see that his case is postponed until the return of the absent Democrat.

ANTI-PILOTAGE.

The Committee on Pilotage and Merchant Marine held a meeting this morning and had under consideration an anti-compulsory pilotage bill, the features of which have already appeared in the Dispatch, and which are familiar to its readers.

Mr. C. P. Armitstead, of Alexandria, and Miss Edwards of Norfolk, were present, as they are called—Colonel Dick Marshall and Miss Edwards of Norfolk, and hand, as they always are when pilotage is up. The committee heard the arguments of the New England shippers against pilotage, and have set next Tuesday for a hearing of the pilots and their side of the question.

The business-men of Alexandria, appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Burrows, Agnew, and others, to see the Virginia congressmen and urge them to get an appropriation of \$25,000 to make trial of the navigation of the Potomac, the river being about twenty miles up to Alexandria. If it is cleared out as a certain point, the Alexandria people, and those along the river for 300 miles, covering two congressional districts, think that they are entitled to an appropriation for this purpose.

Patents were issued to James H. Meacham, Petersburg, Va., for an endless band propeller, and Allen E. Willis, Oxford, N. C., for an automatic register of photograph-printing frames.

INLAND WATERWAYS.

Mr. Skinner, of North Carolina, introduced a bill to continue the inland waterways from Duluth to Florida, and the Mississippi river. The object of

bill is to aid the inland coast-defense, and to give an inland route for all sorts of small war-vessels between New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, and New Orleans, without going into the ocean.

A bill was referred to the Committee on Claims from Roanoke, Va., an amount to reimburse it for the destruction of a building during the war by Federal troops.

Miss Anna Taylor, of Fredericksburg (near Manchester), is here on business.

Congressman Elliott is on two important sub-committees of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, one of which is that on the Nicaragua canal, and the other that on Interstate Commerce.

Among those here to attend the winter conference are J. L. Johnson and Robert Beverly, of Virginia, and Dr. J. Mott, of North Carolina.

POSTAL.

Among the fourth-class postmasters appointed to-day, were the following: J. C. Brown, vice S. Cox, resigned, at Brown, Randolph county, N. C.; Harvey Maximo, Cabarrus county, N. C.; B. H. McKee vice Anderson Toler, resigned, at Toler's, Orange county, N. C.; Walter Patterson vice A. C. Wells, removed, at Bunker Hill, Bedford county, Va.; James Morris vice Mrs. S. E. Womack, resigned, at Tunstall, New Kent county, Va.

Charles E. Bell has been commissioned post master at Whitehall, Va.

Star Service has been established as follows in Virginia:

Hoges Store to Pembroke, three miles and back, six times a week, by a schedule of not to exceed one hour running time each way. From February 15, 1896, to June 30, 1897.

Newport, by Maybrook, to Eggleston, six miles and back, six times a week, by a schedule of not to exceed two hours running time each way. From February 17, 1896, to June 30, 1897.

Henderson, D. C., three miles and back, three times a week, by a schedule of not to exceed one hour running time each way. From February 15, 1896, to June 30, 1897.

PERSONALS.

Hon. J. T. Goodwin of Norfolk, is in the city, registered at Willards.

Mr. Samuel Benheim, of Richmond, was a visitor in the city yesterday, stopping at the National; and he was happy in renewing some old acquaintances from Richmond.

Congressman P. J. Otis, who recently made a brief business-trip to New York, returned last evening, and was in his seat to-day.

Colonel James A. August, of the Hot Springs, Va., is here, registered at the Raleigh.

Colonel W. J. Green, of North Carolina, is also a guest at the Raleigh.

Colonel Richard Marshall, of Portsmouth, and President Oscar Edwards, of the Norfolk Pilot Association, are in the city to-day.

ARRIVALS.

The arrivals at the hotels to-day were as follows:

Mrs. J. F. Taylor and son, Richmond, Va., Hotel Vendome.

C. L. Lehman and wife, Richmond, Va., Hotel Enrich.

N. H. Kendale, Norfolk, Va., Willard's.

William E. Carson, Riverton, Va., Metropolitan.

C. E. Hunter, Virginia; J. A. Heller, Virginia; Howard House.

Mrs. Orr Langhorne, Culpeper, Va., the Oxford.

Mrs. W. H. Page, Norfolk, Estell House.

C. P. Woodruff, North Carolina; R. H. Saunders, Virginia; Daniel Harmon and wife, Virginia; Biggs House.

E. Peters and wife, United States Hotel.

AMHERST COUNTY.

Judge Berry's WILL—Resolutions of Respect—Murder Trial.

AMHERST COURTHOUSE, VA., January 21.—(Special)—The will of Judge Taylor Berry was probated in the County Court here to-day. The estate, independent of his life insurance, is estimated to be worth about \$20,000, and after making suitable provision for his widow is divided equally among his seven children. Mr. H. T. Gordon and Judge J. Thompson Brown, of Amherst, named executors of the will. Besides his other property, Judge Berry had an insurance of \$10,000 on his life, which will be divided among his family in about the same proportion as the property which passed under the will.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the bar, held here yesterday, to frame resolutions of respect to the memory of Judge Berry, on motion, Judge William Dillard was appointed chairman and Mr. O. L. Evans secretary. The chairman appointed a Committee on Resolutions, consisting of Mr. C. L. Scott, Colonel C. B. Christian, and Mr. B. B. Campbell, who reported appropriate resolutions, which were adopted.

MURDER TRIAL.

The County Court was engaged yesterday and to-day in the trial of James Bell (colored), charged with the murder of — Kemp also colored. The defense is self-defense. It is not thought that the verdict will, under any circumstances, be given as murder in the second degree, or possibly voluntary manslaughter. This view is based on the testimony of the prosecution, as the defense have not yet introduced their witnesses.

PERSONAL.

Rev. J. P. Ellis and wife, of Gordonsville, are visiting Mrs. C. L. Ellis, in the village. Rev. Mr. Ellis occupied the parsonage of the Episcopal church on Sunday last, morning and night.

Mr. W. Kinckle Allen left a few days ago for Boston, where he will attend a law school.

Master Peyton Dearborn, son of Mr. George W. Dearborn, of this place, has received an appointment to Annapolis Naval Academy, subject to examination.

Mr. Frank Harrison, formerly of Amherst, but now of Atlanta, is visiting the city.

Mr. Thomas A. Binford, son of Senator R. E. Binford, of Kenova, W. Va., School, left for Franklin, Southampton county, a few days ago, when he has accepted a position as instructor in the academy at that place.

THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

An Interesting Programme—Personal and Briefs.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., January 21.—(Special)—Magruder-Ewell Camp met last night, with Commander Monroe presiding. Mr. John L. Mercer, on behalf of a committee, presented resolutions expressing the great sorrow of the camp at the death of Comrade M. Donigan, after which a very interesting programme was prepared for Wednesday night, when the annual banquet of the camp will come off. The veterans and Sons of Veterans are directed to assemble in their hall at 7:30 o'clock and march to Cameron Hall, where an address on the life and character of General Lee will be delivered by Mr. Otis S. Bland, of Gloucester, and a poem will be read by Captain William J. Stotes, of York.

York Court was in session yesterday at Yorktown, Judge Sydney Smith presiding. This was the regular grand-jury term, and a large number of the sovereigns were present. Several indictments were made. Court will be in session for several days.

Mr. C. P. Armitstead, steward and cashier at the Eastern State Hospital, left this morning for Richmond on business connected with the institution.

Mrs. R. M. Smith and daughters, Misses Edith and Meta, went up to Richmond this morning.

A telegram was received here to-day by Mr. John S. Charles, announcing the death in Warwick county of his aunt, Mrs. Martha Charles, aged 82 years.

ANTI-PILOTAGE.

The Committee on Pilotage and Merchant Marine held a meeting this morning and had under consideration an anti-compulsory pilotage bill, the features of which have already appeared in the Dispatch, and which are familiar to its readers.

Mr. Skinner, of North Carolina, introduced a bill to continue the inland waterways from Duluth to Florida, and the Mississippi river. The object of

A VIRGINIA BUDGET.

AN INGENIOUS TRICK OF THE FESTIVE MOONSHINER.

A Revenue Agent's Discovery—The Ten-Gallon Dummy—Wide-Awake Chatham—Col. Carr Accepts—Dahville Improvements.

DANVILLE, VA., January 21.—(Special)—Deputy Internal Revenue Agent Thomas N. Williams has returned from a raid through the county of Patrick. He found no illicit stills to destroy, but captured a full dozen barrels of brandy, on which no tax had been paid to the General Government. He also found out some of the tricks of the gay and festive moonshiners, and they show how far men will go to defraud the government. The moonshiners swear that they make only ten gallons of brandy, and on this pay a tax. But in the mountains they have pits dug, in which they store the "grayt," and, as the ten-gallon stamped cask is depleted, they draw from the liquor in the caves and replenish the stamped barrel. Deputy Williams found one cave from the many tracks which led to and from it.

WIDE-AWAKE CHATHAM.

Chatham, the county seat of Pittsylvania, now has a live, active, wide-awake tobacco association, and the men at the helm are determined to work for business. The president is Mr. J. H. Hanes, Jr., and J. L. Carter is the secretary and treasurer. Three new leaf factories will soon be erected in the town.

COLONEL CARR ACCEPTS.

Colonel Julian S. Carr, president of the Durham (N. C.) Tobacco Company, having been notified of his election as president of the Southern Tobacco Manufacturers' Association, organized in this city on the 15th instant, has written the secretary his acceptance. The association is now thoroughly organized for work.

The work of grading the road to the Danville Power and Manufacturing Company's plant is going forward rapidly. When completed the road will be a grand improvement, and many dollars will have been expended on it.

THE NEW MILL.

The new mill being constructed by the Riverside Cotton-Mill Company on the north side of the Dan River is going up rapidly, and should nothing occur to throw the work back machinery may be put in by the summer.

At the March term of court a jury will have to wrestle with a case of alleged poisoning, which occurred in Danville. It will be a lively criminal court.

ARRIVALS.

The arrivals at the hotels to-day were as follows:

Mrs. J. F. Taylor and son, Richmond, Va., Hotel Vendome.

C. L. Lehman and wife, Richmond, Va., Hotel Enrich.

N. H. Kendale, Norfolk, Va., Willard's.

William E. Carson, Riverton, Va., Metropolitan.

C. E. Hunter, Virginia; J. A. Heller, Virginia; Howard House.

Mrs. Orr Langhorne, Culpeper, Va., the Oxford.

Mrs. W. H. Page, Norfolk, Estell House.

E. Peters and wife, United States Hotel.

AMHERST COUNTY.

Judge Berry's WILL—Resolutions of Respect—Murder Trial.

AMHERST COURTHOUSE, VA., January 21.—(Special)—The will of Judge Taylor Berry was probated in the County Court here to-day. The estate, independent of his life insurance, is estimated to be worth about \$20,000, and after making suitable provision for his widow is divided equally among his seven children.

Mr. H. T. Gordon and Judge J. Thompson Brown, of Amherst, named executors of the will. Besides his other property, Judge Berry had an insurance of \$10,000 on his life, which will be divided among his family in about the same proportion as the property which passed under the will.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the bar, held here yesterday, to frame resolutions of respect to the memory of Judge Berry, on motion, Judge William Dillard was appointed chairman and Mr. O. L. Evans secretary. The chairman appointed a Committee on Resolutions, consisting of Mr. C. L. Scott, Colonel C. B. Christian, and Mr. B. B. Campbell, who reported appropriate resolutions, which were adopted.

MURDER TRIAL.

The County Court was engaged yesterday and to-day in the